

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 121546

70

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SCCT-01 ACDA-10

OMB-01 ARA-10 EA-09 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /118 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:TJCAROLAN:PDW

APPROVED BY NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

S/PRS-MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

NEA/P-MR. SHERMAN (INFO)

NEA-MS. GRIFFIN (INFO)

----- 057492

O P 180036Z MAY 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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PAGE 02 STATE 121546

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
USMISSION SINAI  
USCINCEUR PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 121546

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL, CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - MAY 17

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM  
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR MAY 17, 1976:

BEGIN TEXT:

Q. WHAT'S NEW ON THE JORDAN MISSILE THING?

A. WELL, THERE WAS--I ASSUME YOU'RE REFERRING TO PUBLISHED  
ACCOUNTS ABOUT THIS PROBLEM THIS MORNING--I WOULD JUST  
RESTATE SEVERAL FACTS ON THIS WHOLE PROBLEM. FIRST, THAT  
JORDAN BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT IT NEEDS AN AIR DEFENSE  
SYSTEM. THAT'S FIRST. SECOND, JORDAN WANTED TO BUY AN  
AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM, BUT THEY SAID THEY WOULD LOOK  
ELSEWHERE FOR ONE IF THEY COULD NOT BUY THE SYSTEM FROM US.  
IT APPEARS THAT THEY'VE BEEN UNABLE TO FIND THE MONEY TO  
BUY THE AMERICAN SYSTEM, SO AT PRESENT IT REMAINS TO BE  
SEEN HOW MATTERS WILL NOW DEVELOP.

Q. DOES THE SECRETARY BELIEVE THAT CONGRESS COULD PLAY A  
MORE USEFUL ROLE HERE, SOMEHOW, SMOOTHING THE WAY FOR  
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PAGE 03 STATE 121546

ORDAN TO BUY THE SYSTEM?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER WE'LL BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH  
THE CONGRESS ON THIS SUBJECT OR NOT, JOHN.

Q. WELL, DOES THE SECRETARY HOLD THE CONGRESS AT ALL TO  
BLAME FOR JORDAN'S INABILITY TO GET THIS AIR DEFENSE  
SYSTEM?

A. I'M JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO ANSWER THAT. WE HADN'T DISCUSSED IT.

Q. AT ONE POINT, THIS WAS OFFICIALLY A THREE-PARTY ARRANGEMENT. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE JORDANIAN-SAUDI NEGOTIATIONS?

A. WELL, OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE HOPING TO GET SAUDI FINANCING OF THIS SYSTEM, AND THAT AS YET--IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THAT HASN'T BEEN WORKED OUT BETWEEN THE JORDANIANS AND THE SAUDI ARABIANS.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT THE DEAL WITH THE UNITED STATES IS NOW OFF?

A. NO, I JUST SAY WE HAVE TO SEE HOW IT NOW DEVELOPS. I WOULDN'T EXCLUDE IT.

Q. YOU WOULDN'T EXCLUDE THAT IT'S OFF?

A. I WOULDN'T SAY THAT IT'S OFF.

Q. WELL, YOU SAID--YOU USED THE PAST TENSE IN SAYING THAT JORDAN WANTED TO BUY AN AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. DO THEY STILL WANT TO BUY ONE?

A. YEAH, IF THEY COULD FIND THE FINANCING, IT'S MY UNDERSTANDING THEIR FIRST PREFERENCE IS THE AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM. IT'S A PROBLEM OF FINANCING.

Q. (INAUDIBLE)

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PAGE 04 STATE 121546

A. I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T RECALL WHAT THOSE FIGURES ARE. I DON'T KNOW THAT WE EVER DISCUSSED THEM. END TEXT. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

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**To:** AMMAN  
JIDDA  
**Type:** TE  
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